

THE BRIDGE

CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



2019 SPRING REVIEW

Hello friends,

I hope you're all enjoying the snowy start to spring!

2019 has been a busy year for us so far, and we're excited to share the latest developments at the YWCA. Highlights of the year thus far include the launch of the Harmony Project Sexual Violence Response Program; an update on our successful VINEart Gala Auction; and the upcoming Change Makers and Women of Distinction Awards taking place next week!

The significant strides that we continue to make as an organization would not be possible without our supporters like you who inspire us to continue finding new and innovative ways of shaping a safe, inclusive Bow Valley for all residents.

I hope you enjoy the spring edition of The Bridge. Thank you so much for your ongoing commitment to the YWCA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie".

Connie MacDonald
CEO, YWCA Banff



LAUNCHING

The Harmony Project's Sexual Violence Response Program

The Harmony Project—a collaborative, community response to sexual violence in the Bow Valley— has launched a new initiative! **The Sexual Violence Response Program** was officially launched in January 2019 to help survivors of sexual assault, harassment, abuse and their support people with emotional support and assistance navigating legal, medical and therapeutic services.

This program is free, confidential, and available Monday – Saturday, 9am to 5pm, for everyone in the Bow Valley. If you have any questions or need the support of the program, please feel free to contact us at **(403) 760-3200**.

[Learn more about the Harmony Project and the Sexual Violence Response Program.](#)



2019 BOW VALLEY WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

JOIN US

Change Makers and the Bow Valley Women of Distinction Awards

We are thrilled to announce our 2019 Bow Valley Women of Distinction award recipients; **Patricia Grayling, Nan Hughes-Poole, and Karen Hunter Sorensen**. This year also marks the launch of our Dr. Priscilla Wilson Memorial Award, and we are proud to honour long-time Banff resident **Barb Pelham** as its first recipient.

We host these awards each year to recognize local women who, through their own initiative, ability, and effort, have demonstrated exemplary achievement in their fields. We hope you'll join us for Change Makers on May 9th at the Banff Centre's Rolston Recital Hall for the awards ceremony, as well as a talk by another inspiring woman, three-time Olympian **Beckie Scott**.

Beckie Scott retired in 2006, capping nearly two decades of competitive cross-country ski racing as Canada's most successful cross-country skier and one of the world's best all-around cross-country racers. She is also an Olympic broadcast analyst, elected member of the IOC and an honorary doctor of laws degree recipient from the University of Alberta.

This past December, Canmore's Scott was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours. Scott is also known for her role as an

advocate for drug-free sport, having spearheaded an athlete's petition for the establishment of an independent drug-testing body for all World Cup and Olympic competitions in 2001

[Learn more about our award recipients here.](#)

[Click here to pick up your tickets to Change Makers on May 9th.](#)



COMING UP
Strength in Being a Boy

As part of our commitment to engaging men and boys in violence prevention, we will be hosting another edition of our Strength in Being a Boy conference for boys in grades 4, 5, and 6 on May 4, 2019.

After a successful run last year, we are once again partnering with the **Centre for Sexuality** and facilitators from their **WiseGuyz** program to offer an impactful day for boys from throughout the Bow Valley. Men and boys are an essential part of the solution to

ending gender-based violence, and Strength in Being a Boy will instil participants with positive ideas of masculinity, combating stereotypes often portrayed in media and imposed on them through peer pressure.

This year, all registered spaces for this free event were filled in only ONE DAY! We look forward to sharing an update on how Strength in Being a Boy went in the next edition of The Bridge.

[Learn more about Strength in Being a Boy.](#)



UPDATE ON

The Higher Ground Project

The Bow Valley Higher Ground Project is our plan to bring a new, purpose-built facility to Canmore with a range of services that address domestic and sexual violence in the Bow Valley. This includes shelter and transitional housing, counselling, services for children, and violence prevention programs.

We know that, here at the YWCA, we have a lot of projects and programs on the go, so we put together the video above to show our community what Higher Ground is all about. Currently, we're in the midst of some exciting stages of the project, including finding and securing land in Canmore for the new facility, and finalizing a trauma-informed, future-focused program model designed to meet the unique needs of Bow Valley residents within our rural context.

Click the link above to watch the video and learn more about how Higher Ground will support the well-being of Bow Valley residents experiencing violence and other associated vulnerabilities.

[Learn more about the Higher Ground Project.](#)

INTRODUCING

Our New YWCA Banff Board Member



Rosemary Thompson

Rosemary Thompson has worked as a Senior Executive in the Arts and Media for more than 30 years. She is the Vice President of Marketing, Communications and Board Relations for Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, the largest post-graduate arts school in Canada. She is the former Executive Director of Communications, Public Affairs and Corporate Secretary of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Canada's largest performing arts organization.

Rosemary worked as a television correspondent for more than 20 years before moving into management positions in the arts. She is the former Deputy Bureau Chief of the Parliamentary Bureau of CTV National News in Ottawa, and was the first woman ever assigned by CTV to cover the Washington Bureau. She was also the Montreal Bureau Chief of CTV National News during a tumultuous time in Canadian politics, during the 1995 Referendum on Sovereignty. She has covered 7 election campaigns, 9/11 and the invasion of Afghanistan. She's also produced two Royal Visits, and was a key member on the team that delivered the \$225.4 M renewal of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. She is married to Pierre Boulet and together they have two children, three cats, and a lot of fun. She loves skiing, skating and volunteering.

VINEart

GALA & AUCTION



MARCH 16, 2019
FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS

Benefitting the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing Program and the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project

We are delighted to announce that this year's VINEart, held on March 16th at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, raised more than \$125,000! □ Proceeds from this evening of generosity and inspiration will benefit our Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing program, as well as next steps in the development of the Higher Ground facility in Canmore.

□

We are so grateful to our generous sponsors, donors, guests, artists, Chefs, committee members, colleagues, and media partners for making the fifth annual VINEart Gala Auction a huge success.

For all those who attended VINEart this year, and to those who couldn't make it, we hope to see you in 2020 for another memorable evening!

[See more VINEart photos](#)



Above, from left: Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell; YWCA Board President Wendy Kuiper; VINEart Honourary Co-chair David Roberts; YWCA Board Vice-President Salina Riemer.



Above: YWCA COO Stephen Crotty shares Higher Ground design concepts with Banff Town Councillor Chip Oliver

Support YWCA Banff

Following VINEart, an anonymous donor approached us with an offer to match all new donations up to \$15,000, and so far we have raised nearly \$1,500 through this campaign. If you're interested in supporting the YWCA, donations made at the link below will be *doubled* by our generous donor!

Thank you so much for being an integral part of our journey to provide the most effective support for individuals and families in the Bow Valley who are impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

[Make a donation](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

2019 Banff Marathon



We're currently seeking volunteers for the upcoming **Banff Marathon** on Sunday, June 16, 2019 in Banff.

Since its inception, the Banff Marathon has supported YWCA Banff, contributing more than \$20,000 to our programming through participant donations. Each year, volunteers help us

keep runners hydrated and nourished. It's a truly fun day of being outdoors, and a great way to support your community.

[Visit our Volunteer page for more information on how to get involved.](#)

Follow YWCA Banff on Social Media!

